



## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

June 1988

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
ABIDJAN BUREAU

FBIS 2612-88  
1 July 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THRU: Acting Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan--June 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The furor over hazardous waste dumping in Africa reached a fever pitch this month as each day seemed to bring a revelation about deals to receive toxic wastes from Western countries in exchange for hard currency. In Guinea, Norway's consul-general was arrested for complicity in dumping toxic waste on Kassa Island and Nigeria seized two ships and threatened to sue Italy over wastes dumped in Koko, Bendel State, by an Italian firm. Congo, Benin, and Guinea Bissau have all been implicated in toxic waste deals as well. As the evacuation of the refuse proceeds, leaders throughout the area have strongly deplored being used as a dumping ground for waste from the industrialized world.

2. The issue of toxic waste also figured prominently, along with economic and debt issues, at the 11th summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held in Lome, Togo. Of 16 heads of state, 15 attended the session, the only exception being Guinea President Conte who suffered a coup attempt during his last visit to Lome. In addition, Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko attended in his capacity as chairman of the Economic Community of Central African States. Ghana's President Rawlings was a somewhat surprise guest and his attendance seemed to indicate a thawing in relations with Togo which had been strained implicated Ghana in a 1986 coup attempt.

3. Libya continues to receive a cautiously positive response from West African countries concerning Al-Qadhdhafi's 25 May announcement on the recognition of the Habre regime in Chad and Libya's intention to restore relations with eight other African states. In his first official reaction to Libya's surprise offer, Habre stated on 6 June that Chad was ready to immediately restore diplomatic relations. However, less than one week later, Ndjamena reported Libyan overflights of the Tibesti region and commented that "this confirms the fears expressed by the head of state about any changes in Libya's attitude." Nonetheless, the Chadian and Libyan foreign ministers are reportedly to meet in Gabon in early July to discuss relations.

In other Libyan-related events, the joint cooperation commission with Niger met for the first time in 13 years and a large Libyan delegation visited Ghana. In Senegal, two alleged Libyan "agents" arrested in February at Dakar

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airport for illegally importing arms and explosives were released despite strong U.S. protests. Meanwhile, Liberian President Doe expressed a willingness to restore diplomatic relations "with Libya and all friendly countries of the world."

#### B. Communications

The bureau's AFP French landline, out since 7 April, was finally restored on 16 June after dozens of calls to the local PTT by FBIS and the embassy communications section head. However, the bureau's backup telex remained out all month as local PTT technicians continued to work on the problem.

#### C: Technical

Work was begun on upgrading the bureau electrical panels with the installation of circuit breakers and removal of fuse blocks. Equipment received during the month: two Sharp video recorders from Nicosia and seven audio sub-assemblies, seven multicouplers, three Conscribe printers and new circuit cards for modems link with embassy from Washington.

### II. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

Bureau Chief [ ] departed post 19 June after a 2-year tour at Abidjan Bureau. Her successor, [ ] will arrive at post the middle of August with Deputy Chief [ ] filling in the interim.

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### III. VISITS

B&F officer [ ] TDYd at the bureau 5-10 June to discuss general financial and budget issues. His departure for Johannesburg en route to Mbabane was delayed for two days due to labor actions in South Africa.

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### IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

THE social event of the season was the widely attended going away party for departing bureau chief [ ] hosted at Chez Lloyds. The unusually popular [ ] drew a wide spectrum going away audience from the embassy and FBIS local employees and punctuated the evening with some fancy dance steps with [ ] to the disco beat. The evening was appropriately concluded with the dulcet tones of the old Roy Clark country standard "Thank God and Greyhound, She's Gone."

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[ ]  
AC/Abidjan Bureau

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau  
Deputy Chief, London Bureau